CHALLENGE

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

Volume 55 No. 23 | November 15, 2023 | Suggested Donation $1

WORKERS RAGE VS IMPERIALIST GENOCIDE

Chant in solidarity with workers in Palestine

How do you spell fascists? IDF
How do you spell murderers? IDF

★

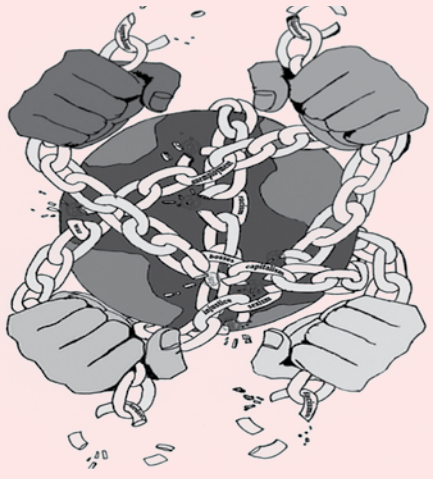
Hey, hey, ho, ho!
The occupation has got to go!

★

Joe Biden, you can't hide!
We charge you with genocide

★

They are killing kids overseas...
Shut it down!
They're killing kids in our streets...
Shut it down!
They're getting killed by bombs...
Shut it down!
They're getting killed by police...
Shut it down!
If they keep bombing...
Shut it down!
This racist system
Shut it down!
This genocidal system



Shut it down!
This capitalist system
Shut it down!
Shut this racist system down!
Shut this racist system down!

★

U.S., Israel hand in hand
racist murder is the bosses' plan,
From Palestine to Mexico
The bosses borders, got to go!

In Gaza, Palestine, as workers and children fight desperately to survive, our class siblings around the world fight for an end to Israeli and U.S. imperialist genocide. U.S. aid to Israel paid for much of the 12,000 tons of bombs that have hit a densely populated strip of land about the size of Philadelphia (MEMO, 10/25/23). As of October 29, the death toll from this criminal and indiscriminate bombardment stood at more than eight thousand people, nearly half of them children (apnews.com, 10/29). Hundreds more are dying by the day.

Workers' anger has filled the streets from Cape Town to Dublin, from Caracas to New York City, from Istanbul to Kuala Lumpur. Their rage is driven by the atrocities committed by Israel's military, which has turned an open-air prison into a death camp. While Palestine-Israel is plagued by misleaders, from Netanyahu to Hamas, the workers of the world, and especially those in Gaza, show the revolutionary potential that we need to build an internationalist communist future led by Progressive Labor Party (PLP).

In imperialist wars, workers die and only bosses win. We need one international working class, one world, and one Party to smash the bosses who are the root cause of these conflicts, from Palestine/Israel to Ukraine and Yemen. It is the

Continued on page 2

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

★**SAN FRANCISCO** *Students, teachers fight back!..p3*

★**COLOMBIA** *Capitalist contradictions on display..p4*

★**LETTERS** *It's not just Baraka— it's kkkapitalism..p5*

★**OBITUARY** *Rest in Power, comrade Horace..p8*

OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email: desafio.challenge@gmail.com
Mail: Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202
Internet: Online: www.plp.org
Twitter: @PLPchallenge
Facebook: @Challenge Desafio
Instagram: @ PLPchallenge

@PLPCHALLENGE

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.
While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049)
published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals.
1 issue $1. One Year: $20. Six months: $15. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals,
GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202
November 15, 2023 • Volume 55 No. 23

Editorial

For liberation, fight for communist revolution

Continued from page 1

task of every CHALLENGE reader to build PLP to advance class consciousness, and to put an end to imperialist war with internationalist, communist revolution. Fighting for communism means abolishing nationalism and racism because they lead workers to the same deadly path laid out by Israel and Hamas. While Israel's capitalist leaders have far more blood on their hands, both sets of rulers use religion and nationalism to mislead workers to their doom. The idea of separate and warring nations, races, and ethnicities comes from the sick minds of the billionaire bosses. They will be abolished when workers of the world unite to smash the blood-soaked profit system once and for all.

Workers save workers

Essential workers in Gaza are showing our class in real time what communism can look like, even under siege. Rescue workers and volunteers are collectively rescuing children and families from under the rubble of Israel's bombs. Others continue to labor in grocery stores and bakeries as buildings around them fall and crush their neighbors.

Health care workers in Palestine have gone days without sleep as they struggle to care for our class siblings. On October 21, medical workers at Al-Shifa hospital were treating 3,000 injured people in a facility with beds for 700 (Doctors Without Borders, DWB). Medical workers are performing operations in hallways, in front of family members, with little or no sedation or painkillers. (Doctors Without Borders, 10/24).

Reformist bandaids and capitalist bandits

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was opposed by masses of Israeli workers until shortly before the October 7 massacre by Hamas, uses anti-Arab racism and toxic identity politics to divide Jewish from Arab and Muslim workers. (More than two million Arab workers live in Israel.)The Israeli ruling-class ideology of Zionism rests on the racist idea of Jewish supremacy to justify a "Jewish state"—no matter how many Palestinian workers must be oppressed, exploited, or butchered to sustain it.

The key to resolving this conflict lies in multiracial unity and working-class solidarity. In the U.S., hundreds of Arab, Jewish, Asian, Latin, Black and white workers staged sit-ins at the Capitol in Washington to demand a ceasefire and an end to the slaughter. But members of the U.S. Congress, including fake-left Democrats like Bernie Sander and Aleandria Ocasio-Cortez, have goose-stepped in line behind Imperialist-in-Chief Joe Biden to support even more funds for the Israeli genocide. When asked about Israel's relentless collective punishment of Gaza's population, Biden callously acknowledged that "innocents have been killed, and it's the price of waging a war" (Reuters, 10/25).

In the face of such deadly misleadership, workers must call out the racist Zionist bosses in talks with coworkers at their jobs. Teachers must struggle with their students to reject anti-Muslim racism–and anti-Jewish racism, as well. We must all take to the streets to share our internationalist, anti-imperialist, communist ideas–and to refuse to let these nationalist murderers–Democrats and Republicans alike–off the hook. That is how we will forge a brighter future.

Only bosses win when workers feud

Even before the latest Israeli invasion of Gaza, the U.S. was funneling $3 billion a year into Israel's military. The U.S. Defense Department also has $2 billion worth of weapons and bombs at Israel's disposal for times of crisis. Israel's killing machine went into overdrive after the Hamas October 7 attack on Israel that killed more than 1,400 people, the vast majority of them civilians–including dozens of Arab Bedouins (NYT, 10/8/).

Hamas and other Palestinian nationalist bosses offer only death and destruction to the workers of Gaza. But as bad as Hamas may be, let us be clear: The blood on the rubble of Gaza is primarily the fault of Israeli bosses and their U.S. imperialist patrons.

The roots of genocide

The origin of Israel's occupation of the land previously called Palestine (by British and French imperialists) goes back to the early 1900s. The development of distinct national identities among both Arab and Jewish workers, coupled with the rise of the nationalist movement of Zionism, laid the foundation for the state of Israel. But the country founded in 1948 would never have been established without the U.S. imperialists' desire for a reliable watchdog to counter Soviet influence in the oil-rich region.

Once the U.S. bosses threw their weight behind a "Jewish state," the stage was set for the mass genocidal displacement of Palestinian workers. Three wars – the Arab-Israeli War (1947-1949), the Six Day War (1967), and the Yom Kippur War (1973)—killed thousands of workers and fueled racist movements led by bosses on both sides. Today, without a communist alternative, workers in Gaza have no place to turn but the dead end of nationalism and the ruthless clutches of the likes of Hamas.

Nationalism is a dead end; fight for communism!

Bordering Palestine is Egypt, a country led by a group of notoriously corrupt junior capitalists. Though they once allied with Palestinian nationalists, Egypt's bosses are now starving workers in Palestine out and blocking them from escaping the Israeli bombardment (Foreign Affairs, 10/25). Egypt is stalling until they can make a self-serving deal with Israel. This is nothing less than cold-blooded murder. Workers' lives can't wait!

To be in a position to end these imperialist bloodbaths, Progressive Labor Party must grow. Members and friends must build internationalist fightback with urgency. As the U.S., China, and Russia move toward open fascism and world war, today's violence in Gaza and Ukraine could be tomorrow's worldwide conflagration. Anywhere imperialism reigns is a potential flashpoint for war. It's time to turn the bosses' war into class war. We have a communist world to win!

Bay Area

Students, teachers fight back!

San Francisco, October 18–1,300 San Francisco Bay Area (S.F., Oakland, Berkeley, etc.) students and some teachers walked out of ten schools demanding a ceasefire in Israel and Gaza and humanitarian aid to Gaza. Most of the student protestors at many schools were non-Muslims of Black, white, and Asian backgrounds with many Muslim students in attendance, a great sign of unity.

This was in conjunction with walkouts in other parts of California, Florida, Illinois, and New York. At one school where 200 students left before the bell, the first speakers clearly called for unity between non-Zionist Jews and Palestinians being abused by Israel. Zionists had a field day, though, calling the students "terrorists" and sending many of them death threats. They also harassed the protesting students and teachers who peacefully protested. For a complete communist analysis about the increasingly volatile and fascist situation in Gaza and Israel, read the article and editorial in the 11/1 issue of CHALLENGE.

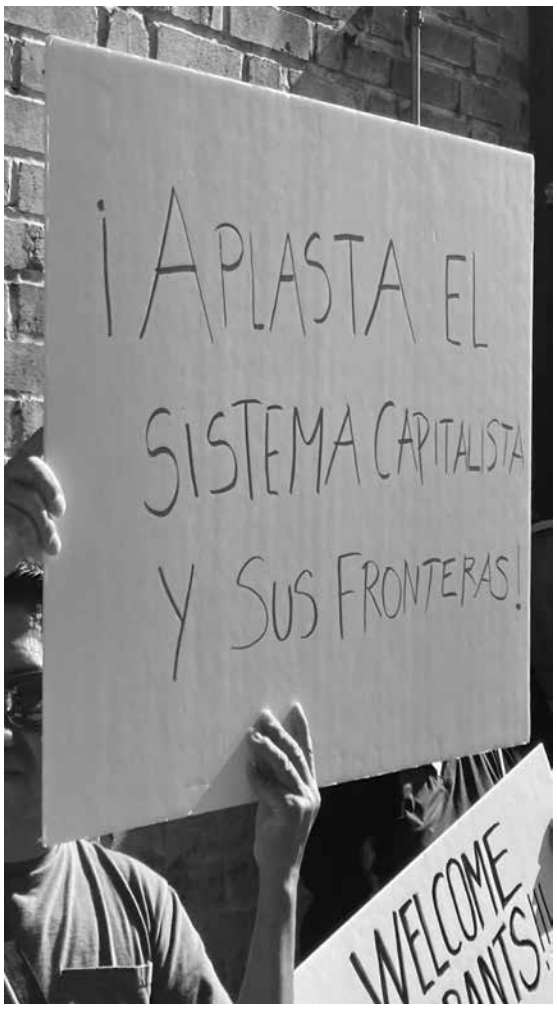
Also in the Bay Area, 97 percent of the United Educators of S.F. (UESF) voted in favor of a strike. Some members of the San Francisco Movement of Rank-and-File Educators and many, many certificated and classified members of our union helped to organize a great turnout of 3,300 certificated and classified school staff. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) teachers and other members passed out a "Capitalist Education Doesn't Work" Party leaflet and ran out. Since this clear vote of the membership, the union bargaining team and the School District settled and have brought a tentative agreement (T.A.) to the membership. Two T.A. Informational Sessions were held just this week. A couple of PLP members in UESF tried to bring up the contradictions of this "historic" package in our breakout sessions. The vote on the contract will start on November 3, with the results to the membership on November 9. This might be another "non-strike," folks! But whatever happens, once again this will be a school for a communist society. The fight continues!

Smash all borders! Working people have no borders!

BROOKLYN, October 1—On a sunny Sunday afternoon, after a rainstorm paralyzed the whole city of NYC, nearly 30 workers in Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and our friends from our local community organization held a rally in solidarity with migrant workers, fighting back against liberal fascist Mayor Eric Adams's new ordinance to evict migrant families after just 30 days, forcing them to restart the housing process all over again (. news article here)

Our small but mighty multiracial and multigenerational contingent met at a busy park nearby before the rally to make signs that reflected our internationalist and antiracist politics: Smash all Borders and Evict racist capitalists were among the dozen signs we towed as we marched across the park, handing out CHALLENGES to the dozens of multiracial workers, chanting "Workers united will never be defeated" and "Immigrants yes and evictions no" in English and Spanish. From the Park we marched through the streets of Bushwick en route to the migrant shelter, where we learned that our class siblings were put out in the street during a torrential rain storm. This putrid racism displayed today is what capitalism has to offer to families already terrorized by the profit system. A system that literally puts families into the streets in the middle of storms and floods deserves to be drowned. Smash all borders!

PL'ers have a proud history of antiracist fightback in the Bushwick neighborhood for more than two decades.''Workers readily received our communist politics, and many took both the CHALLENGE and leaflets, and some young people briefly joined the march and chanted with us. This shows that no matter the condition, no matter the location, there are antiracists everywhere.



Smash the racist capitalism and all of its borders with communist revolution.

Marching through liberals' racist lies

The march was a welcome change from the politics reflected by the liberal community organizations in Bushwick where our friends and PL'ers organize.

The organization supports liberal politicians (including Adams, who conducted electoral campaigns in this neighborhood for many years), and their inability to respond to the crisis is just another example of how slickly the capitalists' agents hide the racism they use to pit workers against workers. Even some Latin members of the community organization and the neighborhood are being misdirected into racist ideas against this new wave of migrants, blaming them for the rise of crimes and the lack of jobs.

The bosses have even managed to pit other undocumented migrants against Venezuelan migrants, now that the bosses have exploited the latter's presence to spread anti-communism. The bosses have now turned their backs on Venezuelan migrants, and there are talks of massive deportations of Venezuelans back to their country to allow other and new migrants to take their place as the new super-exploited. There are now recent migrants (for example, from Ecuador, another country which is now suffering the effects of U.S. imperialism, Haiti, and Sudan) who are arriving in the U.S. and are last in line for work permits. It is clear that the sell-out politics of liberal capitalist organizations are incapable of helping workers fleeing the effects of imperialism and climate change.

Bushwick locals show solidarity with migrants

Once at the shelter, we gave speeches and chanted in front of the shelter, calling out the savage capitalist system as the cause, which needs to be destroyed and replaced by communism.

We also got harassed by a security guard, who claimed Bushwick locals would resent our presence and call the police. In fact, two locals who lived across from the shelter heard our chants, approached us, and asked to see our literature — proving that solidarity with migrants workers exists regardless of how hard racist bosses and their politicians pit us against each other. At first, some migrants were scared to show their faces in the window because of the harassment they often experience from cops. But a few of them did show their faces, and we waved to them.

Mayor Adams has been seeking to suspend the "right to shelter" law at a time when the City has the most need to house people. These politicians' decisions—Republicans and Democrats—are driven by profit needs, not workers' needs.

A Black woman PL'er gave a speech in Spanish that struck hard against this racist imperialist system and explained why communism is the only alternative:

> *We're here today to say we need each and every one of you to join us to find a real way out of this nightmare. To fight for communism where no worker or child be forced to flee their homes because of war or poverty; a world without profits, money or borders. If we had communism no worker would need to seek refuge or be discarded.*

We marched back to the starting point of our rally, receiving many nods and claps from workers along the way, distributing dozens more CHALLENGES. Our friends from the mass organization were older and struggling to walk but the strength of our solidarity and politics made it easier. By the end of our rally our friends were tired but still boosted by revolutionary energy, and were excited to continue the struggle to support migrant workers. The struggle to win our working class brothers and sisters to fight for a communist world continues. Onward!

Colombia election: capitalist contradictions on display

The intensification of dishonest propaganda that the bosses sell to the international working class is a symptom of the breakdown of capitalism and the sharpening of contradictions between classes. There is an increase in violence and exploitation where our oppressors use different tricks to control the masses of workers in the countryside and the city. This is evident in the desperate push to get behind their corrupt electoral system, with workers and students being offered to "choose" to their exploiters who will repress them under the farce of "representative democracy."

Politicians at different levels of government, such as governors and mayors, aspire in Colombia to control the mass of profits derived from exploitation of natural resources and the labor of the increasingly impoverished workers. All electoral parties base their campaigns on lies rather than solutions and proposals, while attacking and belittling anyone who does not follow them. They bring to light mismanagement of public treasuries, the criminal records of their opponents and the constant violation of the bourgeois constitution by their peers.

Capitalism bases its development on the laws of profit. The ruling classes pull their leaders from wealthy capitalist elites and protect those leaders through the armed might of the state as well as drug trafficking mafias. The social democracy that fights for a "friendlier" capitalism always falls into the same patterns of misery and exploitation. Meanwhile, workers remain chained to this electoral circus, which blocks our path to fight for revolution. Only the destruction of the wage system and its racist state through the communist revolution will allow the working class to free itself from oppression, nationalism, racism, sexism and bloody imperialist bosses' wars.

Capitalism needs the electoral circus to make us believe that voting will help reform the profit system and address the needs of workers. This is why the bosses find populist candidates who divert and pacify thousands of skeptical workers and students who are tired of the endless violence perpetrated during the governments of Uribe, Duque and Santos as well as the failures of leaders like liberals Gustavo Petro and Claudia López.

We workers can't continue believing the lies of any of these mafia factions, who seek to build their fascist state power to better disarm and control the anger of our class. During the marches for and against the reforms proposed by the current "government of change," our work is focused on talking with relatives and friends in the streets, universities and workplaces about the traps and false promises of these reformists.

To this end, we are attending sit-ins, forums and rallies, sharing our newspaper Desafío, which condemns this corrupt electoral farce and declares that our class enemies will not be defeated by voting! We stand by our political line that only by building our mass Progressive Labor Party (PLP) will we be able to demolish them with revolutionary violent struggle, building a dictatorship of the international working class.

For this we repeat our call not to vote and instead organize around the PLP and its revolutionary communist political leadership. We must continually fight alongside our fellow workers because it is only the working class that has the numbers and historical potential to lead society. We fight to win more workers, soldiers and students to the need to destroy this warmongering system, responsible for all the unemployment, misery, poor health, environmental crises and generalized violence that we suffer daily.

Pakistan: Death to the bosses, long live the working class!

PAKISTAN, November 1—Pakistan has long been used by the bosses to serve imperialist interests, and today it is suffering from the crisis of capitalism. But, we are involved in struggles with workers. We use chants like "Down with imperialism…Down with fascism" and "Struggle united to win the revolution." We need to organize people around our communist line if we want to get rid of all these evils of capitalism.

Capitalist roots

Soon after its inception in 1947 the British colonialists and their local puppets started to lead Pakistan towards capitalism. The Pakistani state always stood firm with capitalist countries in their fight against the USSR. At the time, socialism was being discussed everywhere and the most super exploited members of our class were excited to join different progressive unions and political parties.

The bosses, however, chalked out a plan to counter this with religious propaganda, saying that socialism is against our faith and socialists are agents of India. Bosses started a crackdown against progressive entities; they put political workers behind bars, killed and tortured hundreds of workers and banned leftist political parties. It pushed the country toward political instability, economic uncertainty, intolerance, illiteracy, poverty, sectarianism and fascism.

Now the ruling class here is under severe crises; fundamentalism which was used to bring people against each other has become a monster and uncontrollable by its masters. Society is badly divided into different sectarian and ethnic groups which are contentiously killing each other to spread fear all over the country. Bosses maintain political and economic instability in the country.

We are trying to keep workers informed that bosses are united to exploit the working class. Bosses fight with each other to get the right to exploit and make money, and they have no intentions for the betterment of their followers. Local bosses are puppets of imperialism; they are acting upon the instructions of the IMF, World Bank and other capitalist institutions. Now it is time to unite against exploitation and plundering.

Workers fight back

Now many have started to understand the ruling class's tactics, and are getting organized in a united struggle against high inflation, exploitation and intolerance. People's Action Committees are being formed by the nationalist and progressive political workers in Pakistan to fill in the gaps which were created by the ruling class by dividing poor workers into different religious, ethnic, sectarian and communal groups to avoid a unified and cohesive struggle. We are trying to let workers know the exact economic, political and social situation.

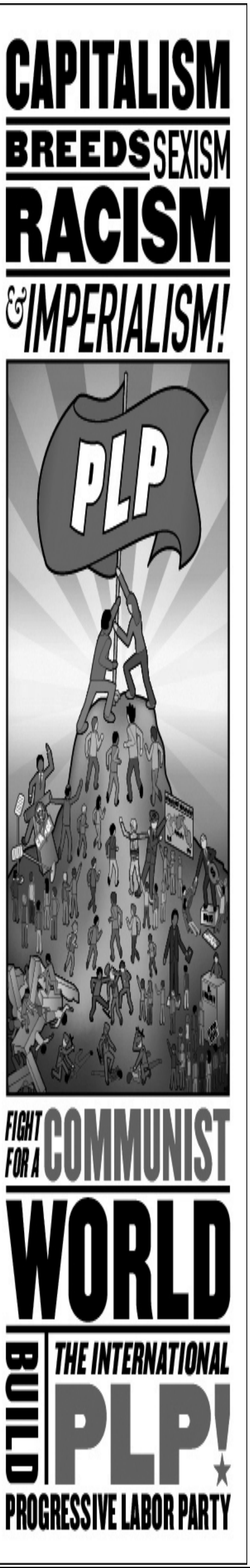
People from all segments of society are actively participating in these strikes and sit-ins. People having different political, social and religious backgrounds are uniting against the imposition of unjustified taxes on their basic commodities, especially on electricity.

Companies make profits by extracting taxes from impoverished workers, forced to subsidize industrialists while facing a new tax every morning. Multinational companies are sending back their profits in dollars which is lowering the country's foreign reserves.

'Long live the working class'

We are involved in these strikes with our revolutionary line, our friends and comrades in different organizations are explaining the reasons why the working class is getting poorer. We are explaining that reforms are also used by the bosses to avoid revolution.

We used to chant slogans like "Reform or revolution….. Revolution, revolution" and "Stop the plundering…. long live poor working class." We also clarify that we need an international communist struggle to get rid of exploitation, poverty, inequality, injustices and fundamentalism. We will win under the red flag of PLP. Long live communism.



Justice for Rodwell Spivey Brothers

It's not just Baraka—it's kkkapitalism

Before heading to work, a group of PLers marched to the courthouse in Newark to stand in solidarity with the Rodwell Spivey brothers for their early morning hearing. A group of antiracist fighters coming out en masse for over a year has produced more worker wins than these bosses ever have and ever could. Justin Rodwell was released after a #FreeJustin campaign led by the Rodwell Spivey family, college students, educators, nurses, and PL called the Rodwell Spivey Defense Team. Because of this work, the word spread like wildfire that Justin and his brothers and neighbors came to each other's defense when one brother was stopped and frisked by undercover police in front of their home. Although the news spreading on X, formerly known as Twitter, helped drive the campaign, we still pushed and recognized the importance of building the struggle in our local neighborhoods and workplaces. The struggle even expanded to Kingsborough Community College campus in New York, where comrades and students recognized and cited the same police terror threatening the working class in Newark and also being alive and well in the Bronx.

Building mass fightback led to a waged war against the Newark courts to drop the charges against the Rodwell Spivey brothers from 40+ years to lower-level municipal court charges. Now that the mass fightback has simmered down and the capitalist bosses did not win their usual opportunity to lock these young Black men up for profit, the judges and prosecutors are shelving the case and brushing off the family. As a result, the most recent court hearing was canceled, and family members were notified only after losing a day of work to get there. One family member of a PLer who attended spoke outside of the courthouse about how Black workers, particularly men, are set up to fail under this system, and it prevents them from working and being dedicated family members. One of the brothers affirmed that he applied for Amazon and UPS, and the potential charges were cited in his rejection letter. What happened to innocent until proven guilty? Another fallacy under a system that keeps the bosses' hands clean and shoves workers with the muck.

Two comrades spoke out against a neighborhood vigilante who went viral after recording himself stepping to Mayor Baraka at a local basketball game for selling out workers in Newark who are being left homeless and vulnerable to corporate buyouts. The mom of the brothers stated, "Still, the Mayor wishing death upon him isn't right, and if it wasn't for him no one would know about our case." We adamantly noted that raising the politician's attacks against this vigilante over the politics of the situation will dangerously win workers to fight more broadly on social media and for him or against Baraka alone, which is a weakened approach to fightback. It's much harder for bosses to get away with attacks against the working class where ideas are being transmitted through fightback that concretely reveal evidence to workers of how racist profiteering is being made primary over our housing needs. Therefore, it's not just Baraka, it's Capitalism! This is a hard lesson we experienced when a comrade got fired for teaching their students to fight racism outside their school and was known to challenge the Principal rather than build a long-term base with teachers and students. This is also a challenge we must face inpunleashing the massive potential of the Rodwell-Spivey fightback. Although the family and PL thank this person for bringing attention to the Rodwell-Spivey case, we still recognized and pointed out that the cult of personality around him is dangerous and he is not above criticism.

Furthermore, we need masses of workers with the same anger and militancy to fight for an internationalist communist revolution with unity en masse and long-term strategy to build on the jobs in our neighborhoods. That is what PLP brings to the struggle. We aim to continue to build on our relationship with the family and broaden the struggle to fight to smash police and imperialist terror throughout the state and internationally.✪

Canadian liberal fascists' hypocrisy

In September, Trudeau formally accused his brother-in-fascism Narendra Modi's government in India of having orchestrated the murder of a Canadian Sikh leader. Hardeep Singh Nijjar was murdered outside of a Sikh temple in Surrey, BC, in June, and now Trudeau's cabinet announced that it has obtained intelligence that the murder was a political assassination related to the Indian government's ongoing persecution of Sikh people and those they suspect of participating in separatist movements in India and abroad.

Besides parliament, Trudeau also briefed the "Five Eyes" alliance members (Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand), and all have put out statements "urging" India to participate in any and all international probes.

Indian officials have called the accusation "absurd," despite their proven record of persecuting and retaliating against the Sikh population, and Chinese media have choked the allegations up to 'Western hypocrisy' (CBC, Al Jazeera, Global Times).

Liberals honor Nazi war criminals

All this posturing shouldn't fool anyone: the racist Canadian state has never much cared for the welfare of Sikh workers, only now with India joining forces with China in the BRICS formation does Canada seem moved to care about Hindu fascism and political suppression, and no justice for workers in China and India is possible while its rulers pursue imperialist ends.

Later this same month, Canada attempted to follow up its bold stand against India with more political theater, only this time it backfired. To welcome Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelensky, on his first in-person visit to the House of Commons, Speaker of the House, Anthony Rota, announced the presence of another honored guest in attendance. The speaker called 98 year old Yaroslav Hunka a Canadian "hero," describing him as a Ukrainian nationalist that fought bravely against Russia in World War II (Guardian). All of parliament and Zelensky gave Hunka a standing ovation.

In truth, those fighting against the Soviet Union in World War II would have been fighting on the side of Nazi Germany. It was quickly revealed that Hunka was a nazi member of the 14th SS Waffen, 1st Galician Division, responsible for the massacres of ethnic Jewish and Polish workers.

The event sparked an international controversy. Canadian liberal fascists like Trudeau and NDP leader Jagmeet Singh pleaded ignorance, despite the fact that the Prime Minister's own right hand, Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland, has multiple degrees in 20th century Ukrainian and Russian studies.. Like Hunka, Chomiak escaped Soviet punishment for nazi crimes by fleeing to Canada. Canada resettled more Ukrainian nazis than anywhere else in the West after the war, including 600 of Hunka's compatriots in the 1st Galician division of the SS.

Even if the rest of the Canadian parliamentarians like Singh and Trudeau feign ignorance, Freeland, with her lineage and education, cannot. She is part of a well-established diaspora of Ukrainian fascists in Canada, who have been usefully re-cast by the Canadian state as refugees of communism, despite the fact that only approximately 10,000 to 12,000 Ukranians fought with the nazis during the war, while millions fought bravely against naziism as communists in the Soviet Union's Red Army.

After pressure from Jewish ethnic organizations, Anthony Rota apologized for inviting the nazi to parliament and resigned, while slimy Trudeau called the ovation a "mistake" and warned against "Russian propaganda" about World War II, and the current presence of naziism in the Ukrainian national army.

This kind of revision serves to perpetuate anticommunist myths, despite Putin and modern Russia being imperialist, while inoculating the Canadian public to its government's continued support for Ukraine in the war.

Zelensky's current tour is looking for increases beyond the 6 billion in money, training, and weapons Canada has already provided (BBC). These kind of farcical political stunts are how the ruling class wins us to endorse and participate in their bloody agendas, and to reject the only path to liberation we have: communist revolution!

What's BRICS got to do with it?

The war in Ukraine and Western posturing against India are not unrelated, nor are they demonstrations of the ruling class's care for justice or workers' lives. BRICS, the economic alliance between Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa is a direct threat to U.S. hegemony and global economic control. BRICS' proposal to trade oil outside of the U.S. dollar is not only a huge blow to the U.S., but to the rest of the world that was under the sphere of U.S. imperialism. Canada's major exports primarily go to other nations in the West, and its economic dependence on gold and oil in these flows is greatly threatened by BRICS' moves to shift those industries into their control.

Let's be clear: no movement of capital amongst the ruling class and their fascist governments will benefit workers anywhere, and the resulting wars they will start to resolve the economic contradictions will kill us before we ever see any trickle-down crumbs like higher wages or better access to healthcare.

In both events, the normally divided political class in Canada has been surprisingly united. No member of parliament, not even the phony social democrats, openly questioned the celebration of someone who they knew fought against their own historical alliance in World War II. Celebrating Nazis and fighting "foreign interference," are ultimately working toward the same destructive end. This hypocrisy is even more blatant now, as countries like Canada and the United States have lined up to denounce antisemitism by arming and funding Israel's ongoing genocide on Palestinian workers in Gaza and the West Bank.

The truth is that each nation's ruling class will discipline each other into more and more unity as inter imperialist rivalry between the U.S. and China continues to sharpen. The prospect of World War means not even social democrats will oppose the fascist efforts to save capitalism in crisis. All of the bourgeois politicians are committed to the enrichment of capitalist pigs, as well as the ongoing suppression of communism. That, however, is one war they are set to lose.

As class consciousness grows, and more join Progressive Labor Party worldwide, our class will be strong enough to turn the guns around, and end their war-mongering exploitation of us once and for all.✪

LETTERS

We encourage <u>all</u> CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

H.S. teach-in vs genocide

Last week, a few days after Israel began bombing the workers in Gaza, my coworker and I decided we needed to organize a space for our high school students to learn more about what was happening. My co-teacher and I had already spent a class lesson teaching students some of the history of Palestine and taking questions and comments, so I knew some students wanted to learn more. I spoke to other coworkers, including one who has family in Palestine about the plan to respond to this war with a discussion. Because there is a Zionist teacher at the school, who has a history of opening up investigations on coworkers, I was given lots of warnings to think twice about having this event and to be careful.

We went ahead and organized it by making announcements in all of the history classes, so all students were invited. This was a good way to build with the teachers in the department, too. Given the email by the New York City Schools Chancellor expressing support only for those killed in Israel and implicitly threatening anyone with an alternate point of view, it was a big deal that teachers agreed to announce it.

At the meeting about ten students showed up. My co-worker, who is a relatively new teacher, and very antiracist, wanted to lead by explaining why he, as a Jewish worker, felt strongly about criticizing Israel's fascist attacks. Students responded by expressing what they had been hearing on the news and Tiktok. They compared what was happening in Palestine over the last six or so decades to gentrification in NYC. They expressed outrage at the racism of it all and the attacks on innocent people. One student asked what we thought the solution was. I immediately took the opportunity to explain that I was a communist and why I thought communism was the only solution. I invited them to a study group happening a few days later. Although none made it, a few have told me they are interested in attending future events. The next step is to share CHALLENGE with them and get to know their parents!

★★★★★

Boston UAW picket: mood of the workers is changing

Several groups of Boston/Worcester PL'ers and our friends walked the UAW picket line at the Stellantis distribution warehouse in Mansfield, MA to bring our solidarity and communist politics. The picketers welcomed our Challenges and leaflets. It was clear that the mood of the working class is changing!

I have never seen striking workers so open to an anti-capitalist perspective. It was pushing an open door for them to condemn the Democratic Party and Biden for bailing out the Big 3 in 2008 and coercing the workers to accept give-back contracts. They also know that the future of auto production works against them. Electric vehicles production is simpler, and uses fewer production workers. This is the logic of capitalism that they can do nothing about short of destroying the profit system.

There were workers who were also walking the picket line from several different unions—SAG-AFTA, Steel Workers, Electrical Workers. This organizing of strike support represents some improvement in the leadership of the AFL-CIO, and It made a big impression on the UAW workers. They commented on how their demands were clearly resonating with all workers. It fostered their class consciousness in that they could see that their bold strike action was leading the way for the working class. Strike support should always be a cornerstone of our practice.

★★★★★

How nationalism poisoned the communist movement

The CHALLENGE editorial in the Nov. 1 issue stated, "The…U.S. ruling class….supported the creation of a 'Jewish state' and the displacement of millions of workers from Palestine in exchange for a Cold War ally against Soviet influence in the Middle East and support in the fight to control…the region's oil." However, the issue of nationalism is much more complex.

Zionism, a form of Jewish nationalism, was always an anathema to early Jewish communists. The book Perfidy, by Ben Hecht exposes the role of Israeli rulers in sacrificing Jewish workers in the Holocaust in order to gain control and pad their own nests. But in addition, the Soviets were instrumental in establishing the State of Israel in 1947. The U.S. was, in fact, at first opposed to it.

The Soviets had hoped to find a home for the remnant of Jews after the Holocaust, during which six million were murdered, and established Birobidzhan in Siberia, which didn't succeed for long. During the war, once they realized the magnitude of Hitler's designs, they moved surviving Jews to Uzbekistan in the East to save them. In 1948 the Soviet ambassador to the U.N., Andrei Gromyko spoke about the Jewish historical claim to Palestine and the need to respond to "…the aspirations of the Jews to establish their own state." The U.S. would be the first to recognize this new state, but the U.S.S.R. soon followed, the first to offer 'de jure' recognition, a stronger form of international recognition and one that the U.S. delayed in giving.

In 1948 the U.S. had joined with Britain, its wartime ally, in following a U.N. embargo on arms shipments to the Middle East, leaving the Zionists with only one major lifeline of weapons, the then-socialist Czechoslovakia. Included were weapons, ammunition, fighter airplanes, and secret training areas for Israeli troops. A brigade of Czech volunteers was also trained to fight with the Israeli army. The Arabs knew something was going on, and in the U.N. an Arab diplomat charged that Zionists were using weapons, "the source of which was known to the U.S.S.R. representative."

Although Soviet Jews were prevented from emigrating to Israel, other countries permitted it. During the "thaw years" between 1948 and 1952, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, and Poland allowed almost 300,000 surviving Jews to go to Israel. The Soviet Union's help ended almost as soon as it began, and Israel started turning to Western imperialists who welcomed them in the competition for dominance of local resources, especially oil. What had motivated the Soviet Union to take the position it did? Stalin's concern for the Jews was already evident.But nationalism as a political ideology was not thoroughly rooted out in the Soviet Union. There were so-called progressive nationalists, who were to be supported,whilst bad nationalists were to be opposed. Progressive Labor Party says all nationalism is bad. In this way we attempt to correct errors which led to the revival of capitalism in the Soviet Union and China.

Some of the reasons historians have offered for the Soviet Union's stance on Israel are: that Stalin was angered with the Arabs for being pro-German during the war and sided with the Jews who had suffered at the hands of the Nazis; that the Soviets wanted to penetrate the Middle East and the Mediterranean and saw a Jewish state as an opening wedge; that the Jews were more open to communism than the reactionary Arabs; that the Jewish state would grow increasingly favorable to the Soviet Union and thereby spurn the U.S. imperialists. That isn't how it turned out.

★★★★★

CORRECTION

The article "No fair contract in a profit system" in the last issue of CHALLENGE (11/1), reported that there were around 4,600 workers at the Chicago Assembly Plant, producing around 2400 vehicles per day. The actual number of workers at the plant is over 5,000, who produce around 700 vehicles per shift when the plant is running at a max capacity.

Rest in power, Comrade Horace

Our comrade, Horace, passed October 14th 2023, at the age of 94. Horace, you were a communist, and the light of so many lives. Words cannot express the grief we feel at your loss. You were striving for a new world, a world that would not know the meaning of exploitation, racism, nationalism and sexism, a communist world.

Horace was born in Trinidad and Tobago on June 9th 1929 during the Great Depression. He became interested in world affairs at the age of nine, as World War II loomed. At 15 he joined the Negro Welfare Cultural Association (NWCA), which was organized by the international communist movement. He started reading the works of Vladimir Lenin and Karl Marx. He married in 1955 to his lifelong partner, Cynthia, and they had three children, two boys and a girl.

After WWII Horace participated in the struggles of workers in Trinidad against the inhumane harsh economic conditions suffered under the racist British colonial system. He became the secretary of the Federation Workers Trade Union, organizing bus drivers and conductors. There he joined many workers on a march to the U.S. military base in Trinidad, to protest against the racist conditions. In 1970, the working class rebelled in an insurrection against the capitalist-run government. Horace's committee united Indian and African workers marching through the streets of Trinidad. Unfortunately, the insurrection was put down by the government. Many workers were arrested and sent to prison. Horace lost his job. His family was forced to bag up peanuts which Horace would sell for 6 cents a bag to put food on the table.

In the early 1970's, he moved to New York City. He got a job at Montefiore, a hospital where workers were represented by 1199 SEIU. In time he received a scholarship allowing him to become an x-ray tech and was able to bring his family to Brooklyn.

At the hospital he came in contact with a PLP member. PLP's newspaper, CHALLENGE, resonated with his militant anti-capitalist experiences in Trinidad. His journey began on the long struggle for communism. He participated in many May Day marches in Washington, D.C., always bringing a busload of workers from his building. He organized many social events among family and friends. He was a great chef. Using tropical ingredients: peppers and chilies , coconuts, plantains, sweet potatoes and spices, he gave us a taste of the Caribbean. On behalf of our entire Party, our class, our women and youth, dear Comrade, Farewell.

Like the Bolsheviks we can make revolution!

The following, written by co-workers of PL members, was set to be given at the celebration of the Bolshevik Revolution in New York City. The event was cancelled in order to participate on the national "Cease Fire" demonstration against Israel's crimes of genocide of Palestinian families. The speech has been modified into an article for publication so that all readers of CHALLENGE can take inspiration from our communist predecessors.

November 6 should be a celebratory occasion for the international working class, but this year PLP will spend the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution in D.C. to protest genocide in Gaza and the continued occupation of Palestine.

This is not only an issue of moral urgency, but should be deeply important to us as communists and as the working class.

Lenin has said

"There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen"

From Gaza to climate catastrophe to labor strikes to migrant crises, these feel like weeks where decades can potentially happen.

It was on this day in 1917 that the Bolshevik party led workers to establish the first ever communist state-freeing thousands from the violence of capitalism and laying the blueprint for revolutionary movements worldwide. Communist workers went on to spread education and healthcare to millions, almost single handedly defeat Nazis, and aided decolonial struggles around the world.

So let's consider Russia in 1917.

Underdeveloped, un-industrialized, and subject to western imperialism, few would have expected Russia to be the place of the first successful communist revolution in history. The Bolshevik party too was small and fringe-it was not expected to lead the first communist revolution in history.

Similarly, it can be hard to imagine a successful revolutionary movement happening for us now, but like the Bolsheviks we have a party, like the Bolsheviks we believe in internationalism, and like the Bolsheviks we want to seize state power too!

Revolutions don't happen spontaneously, but they also don't occur without the right circumstances and without the right strategy.

Women workers helped to bring the October Revolution when they marched into Petrograd demanding bread and demanding an end to WWI. But this alone didn't lead to the success of the October Revolution. They were marching to fix the specific conditions that they found themselves in at that particular moment that became impossible to survive in. Bread and peace were important, but that alone is not communism.

What can we learn from this? The Bolsheviks and used this to educate people and build their base. They recognized revolutionary potential in peasants and in the working class and gave them a political project to work towards. They did not just want bread or an end to the war. They did not want reform. They wanted revolution!

It is our job too, to see revolutionary potential in mass movements. There is revolutionary potential in protests to free Palestine. There is revolutionary potential in movements against racist police. It's the job of communists to recognize this revolutionary potential and make sure that it is matched with principled political ideology.

The history of zionism rooted in anti-communism

In analyzing the current humanitarian crisis befaling Palestinian workers and kids, we must ask ourselves how we got here and why powerful Imperialist nations like the United States and Great Britain have such vested interest in supporting the ongoing acts of apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and genocidal terror. Much of the conversation comes back to the age-old fear of communist revolution. The same anti-semitism that provoked the Holocaust carried out by Nazi Germany also spurred support for the zionist cause and establishment of the often mentioned but less contextualized Balfour Declaration of 1922. A large portion of the antisemitism that pervaded Europe during the early 20th century was a manifestation of an association European white nationalists were drawing between Jews and Communist movements of the time. This may sound familiar in the current era when we hear conspiracies about the likes of George Soros orchestrating BLM protests in 2020 or pushing critical race theory in schools. A continuation of this association that has morphed into a dog whistle for anti semitism.

Winston Churchill puts this association very clearly in his 1920 article Zionism Versus Bolshevism: A Struggle for the Soul of the Jewish People. In reference to the October Revolution he is very explicit in his antisemitism and association of Jewish people with Communism. "There is no need to exaggerate the part played in the creation of Bolshevism and in the actual bringing about of the Russian Revolution by these international and for the most part atheistical Jews."

His solution, and the solution that many imperial powers propose even to this day was Zionism.

As with the Bolshevik Revolution, we must remember this time period and understand that the actions that followed are crucial to comprehending why the United States and other imperialist nations continue to fund Israel's atrocities. Furthermore this historical context explains why revolution is the only path forward lest we sacrifice a true liberation of Palestinian workers and workers everywhere.

No war but class war for communism

We don't want a ceasefire–we want international communism. We don't want a reformed police force—we want communism. We know that without a fight for communism, all of these struggles are impossible, but in all of these struggles there is the potential for revolution.

The Russian Revolution most famously happened in response to World War I. And in a time when workers around the world are again suffering from the threat of imperial war, this is more relevant than ever.

From Palestine to Brooklyn capitalism harms us all.

At a time when many supposed leftists are revealing themselves to be ideologically aligned with the imperatives of the state, we must remember it was the Bolsheviks who stood firm in their support of the working class while the Mensheviks found themselves willing to support the inhumane clash of Imperial powers known as World War I.

We will continue to say no to imperial war, even when it is unpopular to do so.

But as communist we look to the past to set a path to a brighter future. This path is often mired in darkness and requires us to light a dialectical torch illuminating the footsteps of our comrades and the fundamental contradictions at play between the interests of the ruling class and the working class.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

MSNBC, CNN, and Fox are all racist mouthpieces for the bosses

Al Jazeera, 10/29–Publishing unsubstantiated claims, telling only one side of the story, and painting Palestinians as nothing more than objects in Hamas's hands are all unprofessional mistakes Western media makes while covering the conflict between Israel and Hamas, media experts and Arab journalists say. Experts and journalists who spoke to Al Jazeera said the systemic "bias in favour of Israel" is "irreparably damaging" the credibility of news agencies…As Western media organisations "dehumanise Palestinians" and "legitimise Israeli violations of international law" as Israel bombs Gaza, it is glaringly obvious that the vital historical context of the trauma Palestinians have been through for the past 75 years is being left out, experts say. United Nations experts say Palestinians in Gaza are facing the risk of genocide…Most of the people within Gaza are the children or grandchildren of Palestinians who were expelled from their homeland during the creation of Israel in 1948 – an event commemorated annually as the "Nakba" or catastrophe.

Israeli Defense Force drops kilotons on bombs on a city

Anadolu Ajansi, 10/24–Israel has dropped more than 12,000 tons of explosives on the Gaza Strip since Oct. 7, the media office in the Palestinian enclave said on Tuesday. "The explosive force of these explosives is equivalent to the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima in Japan" in 1945, the office said in a statement. "An average of 33 tons of explosives were dropped per square kilometer on the Palestinian enclave since Israel started its aggression," it added. Home to 2.3 million people, the Gaza Strip has a total area of 365 square kilometers.

Migration is driven by imperialism

Great Cities Institute, October 2023–The U.S. immigration crisis has reached a new boiling point. Apprehensions by federal agents of people crossing the U.S. Southern border is at a near-record high. For the past year, tens of thousands of asylum seekers have appeared in cities like New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Denver, many of them dispatched northward in buses by the governors of Texas and Florida. The newcomers have overwhelmed local governments as municipal leaders frantically try to provide them emergency shelter, food and other basic services…Mexico's president Andrés Manuel López Obrador summed up the current crisis best when he said recently that U.S. sanctions, especially against Venezuela and Cuba, have directly caused the recent migration surge…"The origins, go deep... sanctions cannot be maintained — blockades — and the poorest countries have to be helped," he added. Likewise, Colombia's new President Gustavo Petro said recently: "If we truly want to end the disastrous human exodus through the Darien [Gap], the economic blockade of Venezuela must be ended."

Netanyahu built Hamas

NYT, 10/24/23—All means were good to undo the notion of Palestinian statehood. In 2019, Mr. Netanyahu told a meeting of his center-right Likud party: "Those who want to thwart the possibility of a Palestinian state should support the strengthening of Hamas and the transfer of money to Hamas. This is part of our strategy."…The strategy was intended to cement the notion that there was no viable Palestinian partner for peace.

THIS GENOCIDAL SYSTEM—SHUT IT DOWN!

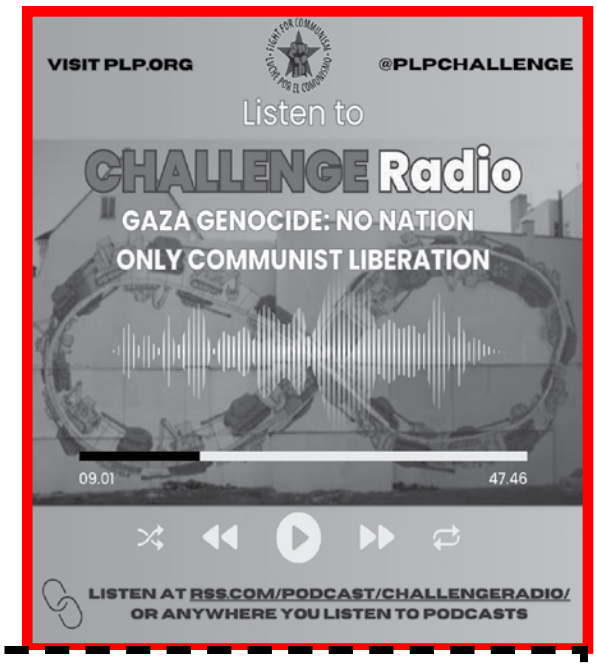
Workers and students in New York City have risen up in anger at the fascist collective punishment that the Israeli government is raining down on the workers of Gaza.

Every day, hundreds to thousands have gathered – and Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members have been there in the struggle, pointing out that neither the Big Fascist government of Israel nor Hamas, the Small Fascists they helped install in Gaza, can lead workers to liberation. Most importantly, PLP called for a communist revolution that rids the world of all bosses and their lethal capitalist system.

In the Bronx, around 100 protesters gathered in front of the offices of Richie Torres, a representative to the U.S. Congress. This racist Democratic Party liberal weaponizes his Gay and Latin identity to try to convince his constituents, who live in the poorest Congressional district in the country, to unconditionally support the fascist, genocidal Israeli government. Our line stood out against the backdrop of Palestinian nationalism, as Hamas' brutal attack has revealed their true nature as capitalists willing to kill workers for control of "their" workers. In fact, a recent survey showed that even Gazans see through Hamas' lies; 44 percent of those surveyed in the territory said they had no trust in the Hamas government (Foreign Affairs, 10/25). Many of the demonstrators eagerly took our literature, which attacked both groups of bosses. PLP members had conversations with workers, struggling with them to understand that there cannot be a "Free Palestine" without destroying capitalism.

On Friday, October 27, a thousand people gathered in and around Grand Central Terminal, shutting down one of the busiest train stations in the country. After hundreds sat down inside the station, hundreds more took over 42nd Street outside and began marching west. As in the Bronx, the chants were mostly for an immediate ceasefire and for a "free Palestine." While chanting "Arab, Jewish, Black, and white. Workers of the world unite!" we distributed more than 300 copies of CHALLENGE and 300 leaflets. One demonstrator, after carefully reading our leaflet, called it a "breath of fresh air" because it criticized Hamas while attacking the barbarity of 75 years of Israel's colonial apartheid state and the ongoing Nazi-like collective punishment of Gaza.

Workers all over the world are demonstrating the powerful sense of solidarity that we have as members of the working class. This display is truly inspiring, lighting the way to a world where the international working class will be all there is, a future where every boss, whether Israeli or Palestinian, U.S. or Russian, will be nothing but a relic of the past. We are struggling in demonstrations, teach-ins and in one-on-one conversations with our friends, students, and coworkers to build communist ideas and our Party – to make this future a reality. ✪



WRITE FOR CHALLENGE!

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is night of Friday, November 10

Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

SUBSCRIBE or RENEW!

All the communist politics, news, and struggle from around the world!

one-year subscription: $20 individual $45 for institution

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Make check or money order to: Challenge Periodicals, PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHA POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP